

Medi-Cal Program Guide (MPG) Special Notice 06-17

March 12, 2007

Subject	Interim Instructions Regarding County Medical Services (CMS) Certification Period
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Effective Date	December 1, 2006
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References	County Policy
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Purpose	The purpose of this Special Notice is to provide staff with interim instructions regarding certifications in the CMS Program. The following information is being issued on an interim basis, pending full implementation of CMS Program automation.
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Background	Currently, there are three different certification periods for CMS patients.
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- **3-Month Short Certification** – Used whenever there are expected changes in the patient's circumstances affecting eligibility in the certification period, or if there is a program requirement that the patient must comply with, such as application for unconditionally available income.
- **6-Month Standard Certification** – Used whenever there are no expected changes in the patient's circumstances that would affect eligibility and all program requirements have been met.
- **12-Month Chronic Certification** – Used only for beneficiaries at recertification who have a chronic condition, such as Diabetes or High Blood Pressure. Chronic patients are identified in IDX with a "Chronic" indicator.

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Change

Effective December 1, 2006, CMS certifications shall be temporarily amended as follows:

3-Month Certifications

- Patient referred to apply for DAPD (Clinics only).
- Patient referred to apply for Unemployment Insurance Benefits (UIB), State Disability Insurance (SDI), Social Security Administration (SSA) Retirement, or other unconditionally available income, which if included in budget, would cause income ineligibility.

Note: Workers should use Employment Development Department (EDD) Real-time clearances through the MEDS system to verify potential UIB and/or SDI benefit amounts prior to case certification.

6-Month Certifications

- Patient referred to apply for UIB, SDI, SSA Retirement, or other unconditionally available income, which if included in budget, would not cause income ineligibility.
- Patient recertifying with an expired or lost I-551 immigration document.
- Patient is a resident of a Drug Rehabilitation Center.

12-Month Certifications : “Non-Chronic”

- Patient has applied for UIB, SDI, SSA Retirement or other unconditionally available income.
- Patient has provided all necessary verifications.
- Patient has no foreseeable change in circumstances that would affect eligibility.

Note: No changes are being made to the 12-month certification for “Chronic” patients.

As always, workers unsure about the certification period on a particular case situation should contact their supervisor before completing the case certification.

Automation Impact

None

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Forms Impact	None
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Quality Assurance Impact	Beginning with certifications/recertifications effective 12/01/06, and until further notice, Quality Assurance shall not cite CMS cases for having an extended certification period following the terms of this Special Notice.
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Manager Approval

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